ETHICS
GENERAL DEFINITIONS

- ✓ The word ethics is derived from the **Greek** word ***ethos***, which means "character," and from the **Latin** word ***mores***, which means "customs."
- ✓ According to Geisler, "…Christians ethics deals with what is morally right and wrong for a Christian…. It is God's will, (God as the source), God's revelation, (recorded in the Bible for us), it is absolute, (i.e. fixed, unchangeable, do not depend on human beings – **Deut 6:18**), it is Prescriptive, (like medication, we take as orders to the letter)." (**Norman L. Geisler, Christian Ethics)**
- ✓ **"Ethics** is the pillar of culture which is concerned with values and norms of conduct." (**J.N.K. Mugambi, Moral and Ethical Issues in African Christianity.**) – the ideals, principles, (dos and don'ts) in our society.
- ✓ "…ethics and morality are thus defined as the definitions, principles and motivations for conduct and behavior." (**Samuel WajeKunhiyop, African Christian Ethics.)**
- ✓ According to Encarta Dictionary, ethics is a "system of moral principles governing the appropriate conduct of an individual or group." It narrows to standards of conduct.

Therefore, is a process of determining right and wrong conduct.

For more definitions, refer to the following link.

http://www.bolton.ac.uk/Chaplaincy/Documents/Ethics/Session1.pdf

- ✓ The branch of philosophy that defines what is good for the individual and for society and establishes the nature of obligations, or duties, that people owe themselves and one another.
- ✓ **According to Aristotle** ethics was more than a moral, religious, or legal concept. He believed that the most important element in ethical behavior is knowledge that actions are accomplished for the betterment of the common good. He asked whether actions performed by individuals or groups are good both for an individual or a group and for society.
  - In **modern society**, ethics **define** how individuals, professionals, religious and corporations choose to interact with one another.

TERMS AND CONCEPTS

- **Terms and concepts as used in Ethics.**

i) Values; underlying, fundamental beliefs and assumptions that determine behaviour

ii) **Personal ethics in the workplace**

Personal ethics refers to a person's beliefs about what's right and wrong and guides individuals in the decisions they make both in and out of the workplace.

iii) Morality: **is a system of principles and values concerning people's behaviour**, which is generally accepted by a society or by a particular group of people.

morality refers to the actual content of right and wrong.

iv) Normative ethics: personal ethics deals with individuals' obligations or duties, or in other words, with what is required of them.

v) Absolutism: A stance that argue that moral values are fixed and not relative.

- **VALUES:** Those qualities of behavior, thought, and character that society regards as being intrinsically good, having desirable results, and worthy of emulation by others.
- **MORALS** Modes of conduct that are taught and accepted as embodying principles of right and good.
- **ETHICAL SYSTEM** A specific formula for distinguishing right from wrong.

DEONTOLOGICAL AND CONSEQUENTIAL (TELEOLOGICAL) THEORIES.

Deontological

- For deontologist obeying the law, rules or set standards is our moral duty and it is the basis of making moral decisions and not because consequences (fear of punishment or because of rewards). According to deontological helping a poor person because of mercy or sympathy is ethically wrong. Instead one ought to help because it is his/her duty to do as required by law. Key persons are: Immanuel Kant; W. Ross and Socrates

Consequential (Teleological)

- Consequentialist argue that results determine the rule in which the results must be achieved. Results become the basis of action. Once the results are predicted, then method which will lead to the expected result is classified as rights since it provide the need results. If it fails to give out results then it is wrong. Any rule becomes good because of good results. Breaking rules/law depends on the results. Results determine whether the rules ought to be broken or not.

- Refer to the link below for more information.

http://www.bolton.ac.uk/Chaplaincy/Documents/Ethics/Session3.pdf

CONSEQUENTIAL THEORY

- **Utillitarianism**is consequential in approach to ethical issues. Jeremy Bentham are among those who promotes this position. The position states that 'one should act so as to produce the greatest good for the greatest number of persons in the long run.' What is right is that which bring 'the greatest amount of pleasure and the least amount of pain.' On one John Stuart Mill denied the existence of absolute moral laws. According to him ethics is 'what brings about the greatest pleasure. And this may differ from person to person and place to place.'

APPROACH OF WESTERN (NON-CHRISTIAN) ETHICAL PERSPECTIVES ON MORAL ISSUES.

The following are summaries of Geisler analysis of the six Western(European) ethical approaches on ethical issues such as : **Lying**. All other ethical issues such as; abortion, rape, surrogacy, corruption, homosexuality, etc are approached in the same way.

1. Lying is neither right nor wrong: there are no laws. **Antinomianism** asserts that lying to save lives is neither right nor wrong. It affirms that there are no objectives moral principles by which the issue can be judged right or wrong. The issue must be decided on subjective, personal, or pragmatic grounds, but not on any objective moral grounds. We are literally without a moral law to decide the issue.

2. Lying is generally wrong: there are no universal laws. **Generalism** claims that lying is generally wrong. As a rule, lying is wrong, but in specific cases this general rule can be broken. Since there are no universal moral laws, whether a given lie is right will depend on the results. If the results are good, then the lie is right. Most generalists believe that lying to save a life is right because in this case the end justifies the means necessary to attain it. However, lying in general is wrong.

3. Lying is sometimes right: there is only one universal law. **Situationism** claims that there is only one absolute moral law, and telling the truth is not

it. Love is the only absolute, and lying may be the loving thing to do. In fact, lying to save a life is the loving thing to do. Hence, lying is sometimes right. Indeed any moral rule except love can and should be broken for love's sake. Everything else is relative; only one thing is absolute. Thus the situationist believes that lying to save lives is morally justified. There are four ethical principles Fletcher considers.

SITUATIONISM

- Joseph Fletcher, advocates for four Working Principles as the basis of ethical decisions.

- Pragmatism. The action must work and this is judged on the basis of love.
- Relativism. Circumstances always give rise to exceptions to any rule or law.
- Positivism. There must be a free decision to give first place to Christian love.
- Personalism. People come first, not abstract principles.

- Fletcher uses the following examples to illustrate his point.
  - *Altruistic or sacrificial adultery:*MrsBergmeier, a German mother was committed to a Russian concentration camp. Pregnant women were considered a liability and were released. This mother found a friendly guard who sympathized with her situation and willingly impregnated her. She was released and returned to her home and raised the child as part of her reunited family. Her adultery was justified since it served to reunite her with her children and family who needed her. Did MrsBergmeier do a good and right thing?
  - *Patriotic prostitution:* a young mother working as a spy for the US was asked to use her sexuality to ensnare a rival spy. When she protested that she could not put her personal integrity on the line by offering sex for hire, she was told: "It's like your brother risking his life and limb in the war to serve his country. There is no other way." For the greater good of her country, it was the loving thing to do.
  - *4. Lying is always wrong: there are many nonconflicting laws.* Unqualified absolutism believes that there are many absolute moral laws, and none of them should ever be broken. Truth is such a law. Therefore, one must always tell the truth, even if someone dies as a result of it. Truth is absolute, and absolutes cannot be broken. Therefore, there are no exceptions to telling the truth. Results are never used as a rationale to break rules, even if the results are desirable.

- ✓ *5. Lying is forgivable: there are many conflicting laws.* Conflicting absolutism recognizes that we live in an evil world, where absolute moral laws sometimes run into inevitable conflict. In such cases it is our moral duty to do the lesser evil. We must break the lesser law and plead mercy. For instance, we should lie to save the life and then ask for forgiveness for breaking God's absolute moral law. Our moral dilemmas are sometimes unavoidable, but we are culpable anyway. God cannot change his absolute moral prescriptions because of our moral predicaments.
- ✓ *6. Lying is sometimes right: there are higher laws.* Graded absolutism holds that there are many moral absolutes, and they sometimes conflict. However, some laws are higher than others, so when there is an unavoidable conflict, it is our duty to follow the higher moral law. God does not blame us for what we could not avoid. Thus he exempts us from responsibility to follow the lower law in view of the overriding obligation to obey the higher law. Many graded absolutists believe that mercy to the innocent is a greater moral duty than telling truth to the guilty. Hence, they are convinced that it is right in such cases to lie in order to save a life.

AFRICA ETHICS

- **Samuel WajeKunhiyop, (2008), *African Christian Ethics,* Michigan, Zondervan.**
- In Africa the focus falls on social ethics rather than personal ethics, for African peoples emphasize the community rather than the individual.

- ***Values and Ethics***

Values are underlying, fundamental beliefs and assumptions that determine behaviour. In Africa, as in the West, these beliefs and assumptions often remain unchanged even after there has been a religious conversion. Thus many African societies may have converted to Christianity or Islam but they still cling to traditional beliefs and assumptions that determine how they act morally. It is therefore critical to know and appreciate the role of values in the study of moral actions

FOUNDATION OF CONTEMPORARY AFRICA ETHICS

- Failure to understand key elements that regulate African morality led many Westerners to misinterpret African Moral life. For example when Western missionaries saw a Christian take a second wife, they assumed that he was committing adultery. The fact that his polygamy was public

and endorsed by his society was taken to show that African people are very immoral and “quite without a European sense of shame.”

- In making this judgment, the missionaries were looking only on external and were assuming that the only factor at play was sexual desire. They failed to recognized the values intrinsic to the African view of marriage and procreation, sexuality and immorality that underlay the practice of polygamy.

SOURCES FOR THE STUDY OF AFRICAN ETHICS.

- **Customs and Taboos**

African Ethics have been preserved throughout generation through various customs and traditions that provide explanations of the reasons, motivations, values and purpose of behavior. Elders are the custodian of this knowledge. The words of elders are the law. For example in some communities twins are believed to bring bad omen.

- **Oral Tradition**

Oral tradition is the major source of information in African ethics. The tradition includes but not limited to: myths, stories, songs and proverbs. Even Christian teachings were once in oral form. “We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands concerning the word of life.” I John 1:1

- **Myths and legends**

Myths and legends are traditional stories about something that happened in the past which explains something in the present. They often involved gods and heroic figures.

- **Stories**

Africans are story tellers. Stories are an important way of entrenching ethical values and motivation. Normally the storytellers are usually older women such as grandmothers who passed on many values to children through stories. Animals are such as hyena, hare, cat, lion etc are personified to teach moral truths

- **Songs**

Singing is part of everyday African life and songs reveal much about the ethical motivation for action. There are specific songs for particular groups to sing on particular occasions eg. Wedding songs, child birth, war songs etc Songs not only tell what people must do but also warn them about what

they must not do, such as raping or stealing. Songs also celebrate the activities of daily life like hunting and fishing etc.

- **Proverbs, riddles and wise sayings**

Proverbs, riddles and wise sayings are a record of beliefs, values and morality. The concept of fairness is enshrined in the saying, “the cooking pot for the chameleon is the cooking pot for the lizard” Other proverbs offer warning. The Hausa warn that “greed is the gateway to grief”. Many proverbs deal with relationship. Proverbs and sayings like these are widely used without explanation and immediately communicate what virtues are admired, as well as moral truths about relationships, marriage, leadership and the like.

- Liturgy

African religions have rich invocations, prayers, rituals and sacrifices addressed to the gods, spirits and ancestors. These prayers demonstrate a strong sense of the value of community and of one’s relationship to one’s family or clan.

THE BIBLE IS THE FOUNDATION FOR CHRISTIAN ETHICS.

(TEN COMMANDMENTS SUMMARIZES. EXODUS 20:1-17)

The entire Scripture is the foundation of Christian Ethics. Our focus will the principles from the Ten commandments and the sermon on the Mount

Summarized list of the ten commandments.

1. Do not have any other gods. V. 2

2. Do not make yourself an idol. V.3-6

3. Do not use the Lords in vain. V.7

4. Remember to keep the Sabbath. V8-11

5. Honour your mother and father. V12

6. Do not murder. V. 13

7. Do not commit adultery. V. 14

8. Do not steal. V. 15

9. Do not give a false testimony. V. 16

10. Do not covet. V. 17

1. Commandments ONE through Four.

- The first five Commandments underline the relationship between mankind and God. How humanity must focus on God alone (Commandment 1, 2 and 3) and refrain from making of any idol in place of God. God's anger will consume those who look up to else even if it is still about God's creation, God will punished ("for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing love to a thousand generation of those who love me and keep my commandments" (Exod 20:5) but will reward with His love those who obey him and serve Him. Christ further taught God and mankind relationship must be based on love when the Pharisees asked him which the greatest Commandment was. The reply was "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with your entire mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself. All the Law and the Prophet hang on these two commandments" (Matt. 22:37-40)

- God's concept of our expression of Love for Him, us and our neighbours will handle ethical problems such as: greed, corruption, pride, hatred, bitterness and all other problems associated with what is opposite of Love. Mankind was to serve God through community for six days but on the seventh day, rest for the well being of their bodies. Proper execution of Love towards God and our neighbours will have positive effect to our physical well being.

2. Commandments five through TEN.

- The remaining **five** Commandments focus on what is ethically right as mankind interact with each other. It gives guideline in how we need to relate to each other, what we should or shouldn't do to each other. Commandment **SIX**forbid any injury to self or to others. It also safe guard how we should handle ourselves when angry. This Commandment forbid anger, hatred, evil intentions, methods people employ to outdo others and etc. Commandment **SEVEN** emphasis corporate purity and sanctity of marriage.. If this commandment is implemented, then we shouldn't be handling issues like: prostitution, sex trafficking, diseases like AIDS, divorce and all other moral problems affecting our society in a negative way. Commandment **EIGHT** looks at theft. We shall give some attention under point number three below to this particular Commandment since corruption is major moral problem in Kenya. Commandment **NINE**forbid false testimony. Due to the high level of corruption, many people engage in false testimonies. Procurement processes, accounting, job employment, learners cheating in exams, fake importation of goods. All these issues are address by the nine Commandment. Again if the nine Commandment would be observed our community will be much better. Commandment number **TEN** narrows to covetousness which

is the seed bed of greed. Greed is one of the driving forces behind social evils our society is going through. Whenever a major scandal is mention, greed must have been the motivating factor. To emphasis again the Ten Commandments both in the Old Testament and the New Testament teachings are intended to produce a just society. If our society will respect and observe rights of others then we shall experience fairness.

HOW DOES OBEDIENCE TO COMMANDMENTS EIGHT CONTRIBUTE SIGNIFICANTLY TO THE FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION?

- ❑ Obedience to Commandment number eight has positive contribution in eradication of Corruption in Kenya

- ✓ It inculcates honest in our pursued of wealth or possessions.

- ✓ It builds integrity in one's life

- ✓ Require one to respect rights of others to own property as well.

- ✓ Enable one to balance between ones own interest along with the interest of others. "Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others." (Philippians 2:4)

- ➢ Commandments numbers eight and nine addresses all kinds of spiritual, economic, political and social issues facing Kenya today. FOR EXAMPLE:

- ✓ Cheating on Exams in all levels of academic institutions

- ✓ Purchasing stolen goods- It a common practice in almost all sectors of life. Stolen livestock end up in butcheries in town. Goods on transit to other countries are diverted for sell. Even food donated for relief work are stolen and sold in local markets.

- ✓ Business dealing which are built on deceitfully down grading products in order to purchase them cheaply then turn around and sell them at exorbitant prices. Proverbs 20:14; Eph. 4:28; Rom. 12: 17

- ✓ Practice of conman ship. In supermarkets prices may be deceitfully marked "reduced price from Ksh500/= to Ksh450/= yet the product is worth Ksh350/=

- ✓ Employment. Short listing, interviews, bribes, promotions

- ✓ Court cases. Concealing wrong doings and acquiring property through bribes. Exodus 23:8

- ✓ Oppression of the disadvantage groups by fraudulently taking what is due to them by wrongful use of power or the law.
- ✓ Using fake, adjusted, faulty scales. The Prophet Amos pointed to this practice in Amos 8:5 "When will the New Moon be over that we may sell grain, and he Sabbath be ended that we may market wheat: skimping the measure, boosting the price and cheating with dishonest scales buying the poor with silver and the need for a pair of sandals."
- ✓ Commandment **NINE forbid false testimony.** Areas that will positively impact : Procurement processes, accounting, job employment, learners cheating in exams, fake importation of goods. All these issues are address by the nine Commandment. Again if the nine Commandment would be observed our community will realize "corruption free zone" slogan

CHARACTERISTICS OF BIBLICAL TRUTH(ABSOLUTE TRUTH).

Norman L. Geisler, *Christian Ethics, 2nd ed.: Contemporary Issues and Options,*Baker Academic, a division of Baker Publishing Group, © 2010.

- **It is revealed by God**

Truth finds its source in God who is personal and moral. Paul states in Romans 1and 2, that God has revealed Himself through creation and the human conscience. God has also unveiled Himself through the Bible, His special revelation. 2 Timothy 3:16 states, "All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness,…" God, who embodies truth, communicates His truth through language which has eternally existed with God. He uses this language to convey truth to creatures created in His image.

- **Objective Truth Exists and is Knowable**

Objective truth is truth that is not dependent on the perspective or attitudes of any

individual. God's truth is objective because truth is rooted in the nature of God who is truth.

He is the source of truth and His truths are true no matter what the beliefs or attitudes an individual or culture may have towards it. Those who do not acknowledge God's truth will be judged by it. God is just to judge people because His truth is objective and knowable. Consequently, all are accountable to respond to it.

- **Biblical Truth is Absolute**

God’s truth is absolute, meaning it is true without exception and it does not change. Beliefs change but truth itself is unchangeable. God is the author of absolute truth because He is eternal and His character does not change.

- **Truth is Universal**

God’s truth applies to all peoples and all cultures at all times because He ruler over all creation (Philippians 2:6). His authority and truths apply to every area. In the Great Commission Jesus states, “All authority in heaven and earth has been given to me. Go into all the world and make disciples, teaching them to obey all that I have commanded you.” In the Great Commission, Jesus declares His rule over all creation and the authority of His laws extends to and must be obeyed by all people.

- **Truth is Eternal**

Isaiah 40:8 states, “The grass withers and the flower falls, but the word of God endures forever.” God’s truth is rooted in His eternal nature. What was true two thousand years ago, remains true to this day. The application of truth will change, but the truth itself endures forever.

- **Truth is Exclusive**

Truth is narrow and exclusive since whatever opposes it is false. God states in Isaiah 43:10 “…before me no god was formed, nor will there be one after me.” God is saying He alone is God and there are no other gods. Worship of any other divine being is an act of living in falsehood. Truth is precise and cannot be deviated from. The Law of Non-Contradiction states that two opposite statements cannot be true at the same time in the same sense. If God states He alone is God, polytheism cannot be true at the same time. The Law of Non-Contradiction is a universal law because God’s truth is exclusive and narrow.

- **Truth is Coherent**

All truth statements cohere (fit together) and are consistent with one another. “In a universe subject to the rule of one creator-God… truth is seen as an interrelated and coherent whole.”16 It is not God’s nature to teach what is contradictory, illogical, or false. Therefore, truth statements will not contradict one another1.

- **Truth is Comprehensive**

Although the Bible does not speak exhaustively on such subjects as geology, cosmology, philosophy, and other subjects, the Bible presents truths in a wide range of areas(Genesis 1:1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the Earth. The heavens represent the entire Universe and the earth represents the planet earth.) Biblical truth is consistent with truth discovered in science, psychology, and philosophy. God’s truth is not

fragmented but fits together in a consistent and unified whole with His creation. (i.e. The details contain in the Universe or planet earth unveiled by Science do not contradict the truth found in the Bible)

SUMMARY

- **ABSOLUTE TRUTH**
- Truth that is defined as being absolute possesses the following qualities.

• Truth is discovered not invented

• Truth is transcultural: it can be conveyed across different cultures.

• Truth is unchanging: it can be conveyed across time.

• Beliefs cannot change a truth statement no matter how sincere one may be

• Truth is unaffected by the attitude of the one professing it

• Truth is knowable

In order for truth to be absolute and holding these qualities, it must be grounded in a source that is personal, unchanging, and sovereign over all creation.

CHARACTERISTICS OF RELATIVE TRUTH

RELATIVE TRUTH

Postmodern relativists build their understanding of truth on the foundation of the naturalist worldview.:

- Truth then has its origin in man. This leads to conclusions that differ greatly from those who hold to absolute truth. They believe:
- Truth is created not discovered. Truth is a matter of perspective and each culture or individual defines for themselves what is truth.
- Since truth is invented, there is no universal or transcultural truth. Each culture or individual will define truth differently according to their background and perspective.
- Truth changes. Since it is inseparably connected to individuals and cultures which continually change, truth continually to changes.
- Since truth is a matter of a group or individual’s perspective, one’s beliefs can change a truth statement.

- Since an individual determines truth, truth is affected by the attitude of the one professing it.
- There can be no such thing as absolute truth.
- Therefore, no one can claim to know absolute or objective truth Since each individual's perception is different, according the to the relativists.
- Jim Leffel summarizes postmodern relativism as follows;
- Relativism says the truth isn't fixed by outside reality, but is decided by a group or individual for themselves. Truth isn't discovered but manufactured. Truth is ever changing not only in insignificant matters of taste or fashion, but in crucial matters of spirituality, morality and reality itself.
- **If all moral truths are regarded as relative then what implication does it have on (a) Kenyan society (b) family (c) Kabarak University?**

SOURCE OF MORALITY.

- **RELATIVE MORALITY (ALSO REFERRED TO AS GENERAL MORALITY)**

✓ **Conscience/Reason**- Are human beings born with inbuilt capacity to differentiate good and bad; right and wrong; fair and unfair? There is a theory which claims that mankind is born with clean slate (i.e. pure mind "tabula rasa"). Yes it is true mankind was created with a perfect mind **(Gen 1:26-27 and Eccl 7:29).** But because of Adam's sin all humanity are born with a minds tilted to rebellion against God and anything called good. **(Rom 3:23 & 5:12, &**2 Chronicles 6:36**). Human desires, intentions and thoughts are "**evil from his birth, they go astray from birth, speaking lies" (Psalm 58:3) **Mark 7:21-23**& Matt. 15:19)- "…out of the heart of man, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, coveting, wickedness, deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride, foolishness.

✓ **The book of Jeremiah 17:9** states that "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick…?" **Therefore we can not depend on conscience alone.**

✓ **Parental nurture** – Parents often cherishes and nurture good morals in their children. Parental guidance is "…a lamp… a light …are the way to life…" (Prov. 6:23), it does provide sense of right and wrong, good and bad, fair and unfair to some level. However the parental guidance is useful to some degree because we find evil experienced in society are committed in homes. We must remember that parents are human beings whose desires, intentions and thoughts are prone to sin

because of sin in their lives. We can therefore say morality is not independent on parental nurture but dependent on it to some degree.

- ❑ **RELATIVE MORALITY**

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- ✓ **Surrounding Nature**- The universe and our general surrounding reveal (Rom 1:28) But these environments are shaped by society and individuals who experience the same limitations as stated above. In society there are good people who are not religious yet they are morally upright as per the constitutional (legal), society or family standards.

- ✓ **ABSOLUTE MORALITY**

- ✓ **God is the source of absolute morality**. For He created mankind in His image and likeness and made himself plain to human and that they do not have any excuse (Rom 1:18-20,28). Absolute morality is the basis in which we judge all moral values: Justice/injustice; Love/hate; Truth/falsehood; Mercy/cruelty; Holiness/ evil; Peace/ chaos; It is the basis in which we condemn greed, abuse and discrimination and qualify what good (generosity, sacrifice and equality). William Lane Craig states that objective moral values are not personal preferences or emanate from standards set by society, human conscience or reason; they are from a moral law giver. Therefore the argument which states that morality is dependent on religion is wrong. Absolute morality is not dependent on religion since religion is not the source of absolute morality. For example, Hindus regards slaughtering of an animal for food as sinful because every living thing has a soul according to their Holy Scriptures since. But for Christians, the Bible gives them moral authority to slaughter for food and have dominion over all creatures (Genesis 1 & 2). Therefore absolute morality is dependent on God who is the moral law giver.

MORAL ARGUMENT

RESPONSE.

(a) Explain the moral views advocated in each of the following videos

(b) Argue for a clear position regarding: (a) Objective and subjective morality (b) God as the source of objective morality.

(1) **Can you be good without God?**

(2) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OxiAikEk2U

(2) **Subjective Morality vs Objective Morality**

https;//www.youtube.com/watch?v=7SskpZKtjE

(3) A Challenge To The Moral Argument.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8RqY9972s0

(4) Moral Argument Q&A: Moral Code or Just Moral Opinions?

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NTp7yxLnAGM

(5) Why are you so afraid of subjective moral reasoning?

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0218GkAGbnU

GET EXTRA NOTES ON ATHEIST & THE EXISTENCE OF GOD

WHY STUDY CHRISTIAN ETHICS?

It is essential to study Christian ethics because of the following reasons:

(a) It enables a Christian to apply faith (objective moral values) to social (ethical issues such as: justice, marriage, suicide) actions. The Bible (Matthew 5:13-16) encourages Christians to set an example in all aspects of life. "You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled by men. You are the light of the world. .. "

(b) -It leads to the development of a Christian life-style that is Christian mind set whether in private (personal) or on social relations.

(c) - It enables humanity to differentiate what is good and evil. In 2 Tim. 3:16-17 the Bible declares that "All Scriptures is God breath-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work." The purpose of the Bible is to produce a person whose deeds, thoughts and motives are focused towards producing righteousness in the life mankind through corrections, instructions and admonishing moral, social and spiritual training.

(d) Reason alone do not lead to neutral knowledge on what is right and good since man's mind is tilted to sin because as a result of fallen nature.

(e) Enables humanity to preserve some order and justice.

(f) Christian ethics do not destroy the human nature but confirms the naturalistic nature of truth. It confirms all that is decent and good.

(g) If Christians are to provide solutions to ethical problems such as corruption, they must preserve (i.e. live out) a strong Christian character.

(h) Christian ethics derived its source from the God the Creator who is the source of all truth. God's word, provide us with God's perfect character to be emulated by Christians as they love each other in obedience to God's word.

(i) Hebrews 13:20-21 " May the God of peace…equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ…" them progress towards likeness of His Character. God's character should be the measure of perfection since He is perfects Himself as the Bible declares, "Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect." (Matthew 5:48).

FOUNDATION OF THE MAJOR WESTERN ETHICAL SYSTEMS (PERSPECTIVES).

NOTE: For details Read Geisler, Norman L., Christian Ethics: options and Issues from pages 29-132 for details on other FIVE perspectives.

On Natural Law & Virtues refer to:

http://www.bolton.ac.uk/Chaplaincy/Documents/Ethics/Session4.pdf

- **ANTINOMIANISM.**

Antinomianism in the Ancient Greece

The history of Antinomianism can be trace to three stages of ancient **Greek thinkers** and **philosophers** namely: Processism, Hedonism and Skepticism.

A glance of Ancient Babylonian and Egyptian moral ethics

KEY GREEK CONTRIBUTORS TO WESTERN ETHICS.

- **Socrates (469 - 399BC**, about the same time as Israel's restoration from captivity) Born in Athens, Socrates was the first moral philosopher. He dealt with two moral questions, i.e., **justice** and **virtue**.

- **Plato (427 - 347BC)** A student of Socrates, he taught that perfection is attained by practicing the four cardinal virtues, i.e., temperance, courage, justice and wisdom. He said to develop these, one would then be righteous. This philosophy is currently found in many churches today.
- **Aristotle (384 - 322BC).** Studied at Plato's academy in Athens, Aristotle became the tutor of Alexander of Macedon, who later came to be known as Alexander the Great. Aristotle taught that man's chief end is to be happy and only an educated man was a happy man. He brought Plato's views into his school. His chief view he called the golden mean which means “Do nothing in excess.”
- **Epicurus (341 - 270BC).** Founder of the philosophical view of **Hedonism**. Hedonistic philosophy taught that pleasure was the highest good of man.
- **Zeno:** The founder of **Stoicism**, Zeno founded a school that lasted from 294 to 200AD. It was still in evidence during the time of Jesus and is mentioned in the book of Acts. Their teachings were exactly the opposite of those of Epicurus. **The Stoics taught the highest end is self-denial; the proponents of the teachings of Zeno taught that the highest goal was to be completely passionless and without feeling,** i.e., to feel nothing. Joy, happiness, grief, pain, etc. would have no effect on the wise man. They believed that only two things were real — fate and providence. Everything that happened was the will of God so all that a man could do was assent to God's will. To show emotion, i.e., grief, joy, etc. was to be diseased.

SOME ETHICAL CONCEPTS ASSOCIATED TO GREEK THINKERS AND PHILOSOPHERS.

Making moral decisions (i.e. determine right from wrong; good from bad; acceptable from unacceptable etc)

- ***Might is right***

Power determines what is right in other words those who have power determine what is morally right. Concepts such as ‘survival for the fittest’ are based on this belief. Power can’t define what is right. Powerful politicians, lawmakers may be doing great harm to a country with their powers. Hitler was a powerful leader whose policies lead to extermination of six million Jews and that is not right.

- ***Human beings are the determinants of morals***

Protagoras a Greek philosopher concludes that “man is the measure of all things.” According to this view individuals through their will power have

the capabilities to decide what is good and right. Concepts such as ‘you can’t impose your opinion on others’ are formulated from this belief.

- **Societal standards.**

According to this view Society is vested with powers to decide what is right and wrong and not individuals. The emphasis is not on individuals but society drafting norms that governs individuals within the said society. Therefore society is the final authority of all things. But the Rwanda genocide is a case that proofs beyond doubt that society may not be right at all times.

- **Right is a Moderated action**.

Aristotle view morals as actions or decision emanating from moderated course of action. He believes that courage is ‘the halfway point between aggression and fear’. Problem with this view assumes that moderation is the right expression of morality.

- **Right Is the Greatest Good for the Greatest Number.**

Right is that which brings the greatest good for majority. Who determines what is good? Is good a comparison between to actions or some standards outside the majority opinion determines what is good? Again who defines what is good? How do we arrived at what is majority verses minority and who has the mandate to define? Therefore right is not determined by the greatest good for greatest numbers. Forceful acquisition of 1000 acres of land by a government and settle 1000 Individual displaced persons (IDP) is a greatest good for greatest number.

- **What is desirable determines what Right is.**

This view states that a desire is right in its own. It is an end in itself and not a means to achieve the end results. Desires do not determine what is good. Some desires may appear admirable for an individual. A student struggling with University fees may see dropping out of studies as the best option. But in reality it is not. Acquiring degree is the best thing.

HUMAN RIGHTS AS AN ETHICAL PERSPECTIVE

- MEANING OF HUMAN RIGHTS
- Dr. Jane Dwasi (2010) describes human rights as:
- “freedoms, immunities, Privileges, entitlements, liberties and benefits that everyone has and can claim in the society in which he/he lives, especially against governments, on the basis of being a human being.

They include: freedom from discrimination, the right to marry and raise a family, the right to privacy and confidentiality, the right to life and freedom of religion. These are basic human values have been translated into legal standards or rights. They include basic human needs in terms of material and non-material considerations and necessary conditions for a dignified human existence. The rights are inherent because they form part of the nature integrity of a person as a human being. The rights are universal, meaning that every human being has the rights, regardless of where they are in the world. Also, human rights are fundamental because they uphold the dignity of a person as a human being."

- The religious, philosophical, moral and legal foundations have roots in *British Magna Carta Libertatum* of 1215. In 1945 the United Nations Organization (UNON) initiated the development of human rights as part of International and national law with the objective of maintaining world peace after Second World War.

- "In its founding Charter, UNON member governments incorporated the need to respect human rights on the basis of recognition and agreement that human beings, unlike other creatures, have certain fundamental rights and that the rights belong to every person and are to be enjoyed equally by all. Subsequently, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGASS), comprising all UNON member governments came together to specify what human rights are in their Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) which was adopted on 10th December 1948."

- The UDHR and UNGASS have been created to promote human rights. The UDHR have created a number of legally binding and non-legally binding international human rights instruments. On December 16th 1966 the UNGASS "adopted two legally-binding international human rights covenants, namely: the International Covenant on Civil and political rights (ICCPR) and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) to translate the non-legally binding rights in the Declaration into legally binding obligations…" (Dr. Jane Dwasi (2010) Pg. 12-13)

DOMESTICATION OF INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTRUMENTS

- Domestication is an adoption of International human rights norms, standards and principles (stated in appropriate Articles) by a member country within their 'legal and political' framework to safeguard human rights of their citizens.

Universal Declaration of Human Rights has thirty (30 Articles) that been domesticated in all member State Countries which Kenya is a member.

Kenya in particular consented to ICCPR on 1st May 1972.

Below is an example of a Kenya's domesticated Article for ICCPR.

- Article 18 of ICCPR also states
- "1. Everyone shall have the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion. This right shall include freedom to have or to adopt a religion or belief of his choice, and freedom, either individually or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in worship, observance, practice and teaching…"
- Article 32 of the Kenyan Constitution reads:
- "(1) Every person has the right to freedom of conscience, religion, thought, belief and opinion.
- (2) Every person has the right, either individually or in community with others, in public or in private to manifest any religion or belief through worship, practice, teaching or observance, including observance of a day of worship.

WHO BESTOWS HUMAN RIGHTS TO INDIVIDUALS, GROUPS OR SOCIETY?

- There are six major beliefs developed since the formation of UDHR relating to the authority which grant human rights to individuals, groups or societies.
- These are:
  - Rights are given to people by the government, state or society
  - People are given rights by International Law, Treaties and Human rights Conventions
  - A person has rights because of share community, ethnic background or nation.
  - A person has rights because of share religion
  - Human rights come from self
  - Human abilities and functions earns individuals rights

Human Rights and the Human guest.

- Refer to Johnson, Thomas K.; Human rights: A Christian Primer, Germany, World Evangelical Alliance, 2008.

✓ Rights must begin with God.

✓ God created humanity in His image, giving mankind value and dignity.

✓ Human beings' ability to know right and wrong is based on moral conscience in their minds which can be traced to God's moral standards he imparted in them.

✓ Humans as special creation, created in his image gave them power to govern the environment.

✓ Relationship between God and humanity. Evident in Christ's reach humanity by taking human nature to re-established that relationship.

✓ Human beings protect themselves from each others' brutality because of their sense of right and wrong. They are aware of their extremes to do good and also their ability to be evil. It shows God's moral law in their conscience.

ETHICAL ISSUES

- **Same Gender Marriages (Homosexual/Lesbian Or Gay Marriages)**
- **Abortion**
- **Marriage, Separation & Divorce**
- **Euthanasia**

BELOW IS A CASE OF A TATTOO SHOP INSIDE A CHURCH.

REV. BENTLEY'S ARGUMENTS FOR OFFERING TATTOO SERVICES IN THE CHURCH.

- Pastor opens tattoo parlor inside Michigan church
- Identify Rev. Bentley's arguments and discuss the article below in view of the Christian and Non-Christian ethical perspectives.Thursday, February 2, 2012/ The Standard Business Unusual /Page 7 Associated Press
- FLINT TOWNSHIP, Mich. -- A Michigan pastor who says he's doing everything he can to reach out to people who don't feel comfortable at a traditional house of worship has opened a tattoo parlor inside his church.
- Rev. Steve Bentley of The Bridge, a church located inside a Flint Township shopping center, said his ministry is built on the belief that mainstream religion has become ineffective and irrelevant to most people. To that end, he opened Serenity Tattoo.
- Bentley, who has two tattoos.... considers tattooing a "morally neutral" practice that he likens to getting one's ears pierced.
- "We are about doing church in a different way and being relevant to people," Bentley told The Flint Journal. "You can get a tattoo in a clean environment. You can do it while still sticking to your moral code." Brown is a recovering alcoholic who said the atmosphere inside

the church building has helped to keep him focused and on the right path.

BIBLICAL PERCEPTION OF TATTOOING.

- **Biblical perception of Tattooing.**

a) Lev. 19:27 “Do not cut the hair at the sides of your head or clip off the edges of your beard.

b) These practices were mourning rites for the dead. Deut. 14:1; Isa.15:2;Jer. 9:26

c) Lev. 19:28 “Do not cut your bodies for the dead or put tattoo marks on yourselves. I am the Lord.”

d) Tattoo was a service render to the idol Baal. 1Kings 18:28. Tattooing was done for reasons such as: to provide blood for the departed soul; to render mourners unrecognizable to the departed spirits; to drive away the spirits.

e) Human beings were created in the image of God, thus dependant on God (Gen 1:26-27)

f) God is the owner of human bodies, we have no right to use it as we wish. (1 Cor 6:19-20)

SAME GENDER MARRIAGES (HOMOSEXUAL/LESBIAN OR GAY MARRIAGES)

KENYAN WOMAN WEDS HER US BRIDE IN SAME-SEX UNION

- LesbianTerryWakonyoNgendo, 24, (on the right) weds another Lesbian Courtney Nicole, 25, (on the left)
- CORRESPONDENT | NATION
- By ANTONY KARANJA in Dallas, Texas
- Posted Wednesday, April 20, 2011 at 20:06
- A Kenyan woman has married her American bride in Des Moines, Iowa. Terry WakonyoNg'endo, 24, and Courtney Nicole, 25, wedded in a same-sex civil union at the Polk County Courthouse last Friday.
- The newly-weds held a reception on Saturday in Shawnee, Kansas, where they were joined by family and friends who included about 60 Kenyans.
- The couple, both residents of Kansas, travelled to Iowa as Kansas does not recognize same-sex marriages. **(Note: Not all states accept have legalized same gender marriages)**

- Homosexual marriages in Iowa became legal on April 3, 2009. More than 80 per cent of such marriages are between couples from neighbouring states.
- Ng’endo’s bride says she has since changed her name to Courtney Ng’endo. She has two sons aged five and four. She spoke of the moment she met Ng’endo.
- “I had a husband before and hence my two sons, but I was not comfortable in the relationship as I knew I was interested in girls,” Courtney said. “I was never able to come out in the open but the moment I met Ng’endo, I knew that this was my time to come out.”

TWO KENYAN MEN WED IN A SAME GENDER MARRIAGE IN LONDON

Githinji: Kenyans NEED to UNDERSTAND the Gay and Lesbian Community https://www.kenya-today.com/opinion/kenyans-need-understand-gay-lesbian

Task:

Evaluate opinions presented in article, “Kenyans NEED to UNDERSTAND the Gay and Lesbian Community” by Githinji

Link :https://www.kenya-today.com/opinion/kenyans-need-understand-gay-lesbian

TWO KENYAN MEN WED IN A SAME GENDER MARRIAGE IN LONDON

- Sun-Oct-2009 07:37:pm:
- Two Kenyan men wed in London
- Two Kenyan men on Saturday 17th October, 2009 became the first gay couple to wed in London. Charles Ngengi, 40 and his bride, Daniel ChegeGichia, 39, became civil partners under the controversial Civil Partnership Act which came into effect in the UK in 2005 allowing

couples of the same sex to have legal recognition of their relationship. The couple tied the knot at a civil partnership ceremony at Islington Town Hall in North London at 11.30 a.m. UK time. According to the Act, a civil partnership is defined as a legal marriage between gay and lesbian couples, and any couples who enter into a civil partnership obtain the new legal status of civil partners, instead of the traditional husband and wife status

- Daniel ChegeGichia, 39, who wed Charles Ngengi, 40, (above right) in London on Saturday.
- It is the first Kenyan gay wedding in the UK where both partners are from Kenyans. A team of about 20 people including the guests arrived at Islington Council Registry Office, Islington Town Hall, North London at 11.30PM (**Note: Charles and Daniel had friends who celebrated**)

COMMENTS FROM WORLD LEADERS: U.S. PRESIDENT ON SAME SEX MARRIAGE

- In 2004, as a candidate for the U.S. Senate, he cited his own religion in framing his views: "I'm a Christian. I do believe that tradition and my religious beliefs say that marriage is something sanctified between a man and a woman.“
- In May 2012, U.S.A President Barak Obama openly declared his support for same-sex marriages in June, hosted Gay & Lesbian parties in all American Embassies worldwide.
- "I have to tell you that over the course of several years as I have talked to friends and family and neighbors, when I think about members of my own staff who are in incredibly committed monogamous relationships, same-sex relationships, who are raising kids together; when I think about those soldiers or airmen or marines or sailors who are out there fighting on my behalf and yet feel constrained, even now that 'don't ask, don't tell' is gone, because they are not able to commit themselves in a marriage, at a certain point I've just concluded that for me personally it is important for me to go ahead and affirm that I think same sex couples should be able to get married," Obama told Roberts in an interview to appear on ABC “Good Morning America” Thursday

COMMENTS FROM WORLD LEADERS: UGANDA PRESIDENT YOWERI MUSEVENI ON SAME SEX MARRIAGE(FEB, 2014)

- **The World condemned President Museveni for passing anti-gay law.**

- Rights campaigners and health professionals have condemned Uganda’s president after he said he would approve controversial anti-homosexuality laws based on the advice of "medical experts".
- Ofwono Opondo, a government spokesman, tweeted on Friday that "this comes after 14 medical experts presented a report that homosexuality is not genetic but a social behaviour".
- The MPs, attending a party conference chaired by Museveni, "welcomed the development as a measure to protect Ugandans from social deviants", Opondo added.
- Under existing colonial-era law in Uganda, anyone found guilty of "carnal knowledge against the order of nature" can already face sentences up to life imprisonment. But the new bill represents a dramatic broadening of penalties. It bans the promotion of homosexuality, makes it a crime punishable by prison not to report gay people to the authorities and enables life sentences to be imposed for various same-sex acts, including touching in public.
- The president, who has been in power for 28 years, said he wanted his governing National Resistance Movement (NRM) to reach what he called a "scientifically correct" position on homosexuality. A medical report was prepared by more than a dozen scientists from Uganda's health ministry, officials said. They told Museveni that there is no gene for homosexuality and it is "not a disease but merely an abnormal behaviour which may be learned through experiences in life". Dr Richard Tushemereirwe, presidential adviser on science, said: "Homosexuality has serious public health consequences and should therefore not be tolerated".
- The findings by Museveni's medical experts were disputed in an open letter by more than 50 of the world's top public health scientists and researchers. "Homosexuality is not a pathology, an abnormality, a mental disorder or an illness: It is a variant of sexual behaviour found in people around the world," they wrote. "Lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people are normal."
- Link: http://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/feb/16/ugandan-museveni-passes-anti-gay-law

WORLD BANK’S REACTIONS.

- The World Bank on Thursday postponed a $90m (£54m) loan to Uganda’s health system over a law that toughened punishment for gay people, an unusual move for an institution that typically avoids wading into politics.

- "We have postponed the project for further review to ensure that the development objectives would not be adversely affected by the enactment of this new law," World Bank spokesman David Theis said in an email.
- The loan postponement follows the announcement by Norway and Denmark that they would hold back donations to Uganda because of the law. Other donors have also threatened to follow suit, and the United States said it was reviewing ties.
- The United States is the World Bank's biggest member.
- Western anger over the law has triggered a sharp fall in Uganda's shilling currency, leading the central bank to intervene for two days in a row.
- Link: http://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/feb/28/world-bank-uganda-loan-anti-gay-law

REACTIONS OF WESTERN DONORS SUCH AS:

- Austria said, they were reviewing their assistance to Uganda
- Denmark and Norway said they were " withholding or diverting aid money"
- Britain said, "The money will be channeled through alternative routes, including international aid agencies that met the UK's human rights principles.
- U.S.A -"US described the adoption of the law as a tragic day for Uganda, and the secretary of state, John Kerry, announced that "all dimensions" of US engagement with the country would be reviewed, including the aid budget."

MORE COMMENTS FROM: U.S.A PRESIDENT OBAMA THROUGH WHITE HOUSE SECRETARY.)

- Feb 16, 2014 3:38pm
- President's Obama's comments reads:
- "In a statement released by the White House, Obama said he is "deeply disappointed" that Uganda is poised to ban gay relationships, warning that the law will be a "step backward for all Ugandans" and pose a danger to gays there:
- As a country and a people, the United States has consistently stood for the protection of fundamental freedoms and universal human rights. We believe that people everywhere should be treated equally,

with dignity and respect, and that they should have the opportunity to reach their fullest potential, no matter who they are or whom they love.

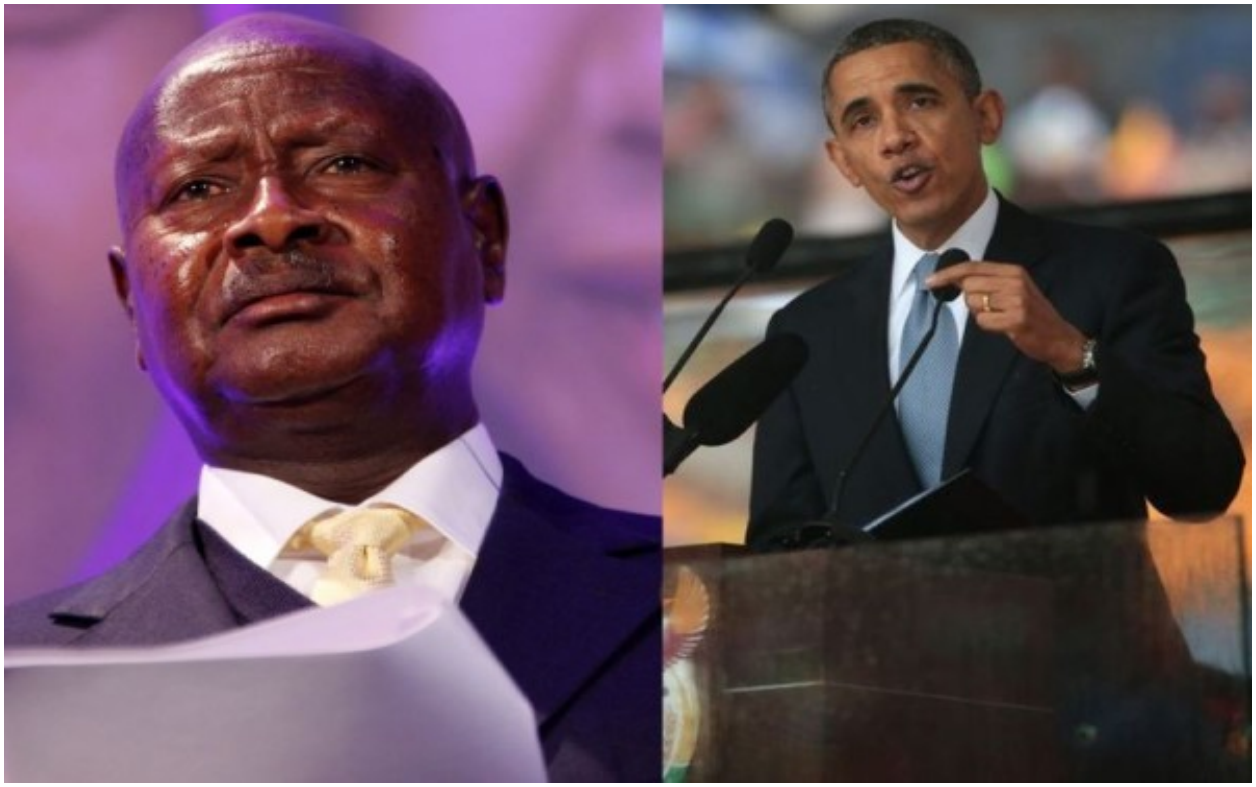
PRESIDENT BARRACK OBAMA'S REACTION.

- That is why I am so deeply disappointed that Uganda will shortly enact legislation that would criminalize homosexuality. The Anti-Homosexuality Bill in Uganda, once law, will be more than an affront and a danger to the gay community in Uganda. It will be a step backward for all Ugandans and reflect poorly on Uganda's commitment to protecting the human rights of its people. It also will mark a serious setback for all those around the world who share a commitment to freedom, justice and equal rights.

- As we have conveyed to President Museveni, enacting this legislation will complicate our valued relationship with Uganda. At a time when, tragically, we are seeing an increase in reports of violence and harassment targeting members of the LGBT community from Russia to Nigeria, I salute all those in Uganda and around the world who remain committed to respecting the human rights and fundamental human dignity of all persons."

- Link. http://abcnews.go.com/blogs/politics/2014/02/obama-ugandas-anti-gay-legislation-is-a-step-backward/

PRESIDENT YOWERI MUSEVENI OF UGANDA REPLIED TO PRESIDENT OBAMA.



PRESIDENT MUSEVENI'S COMMENTS.

- The only point I disagreed on with some of the Members of Parliament (MPs) and other Ugandans was on the persons I thought were born homosexual. According to the casual observations, there are rare deviations in nature from the normal. You witness cases like albinos (nyamagoye), barren women or men (enguumba), epa (breastless women) etc. I, therefore, thought that similarly there were people that were born with the disorientation of being attracted to the same sex. That is why I thought that that it was wrong to punish somebody on account of being born abnormal. That is why I refused to sign the Bill and, instead, referred it to our Party (the NRM) to debate it again. In the meantime, I sought for scientific opinions on this matter.
- I would like to discourage the USA government from taking the line that passing this law will "complicate our valued relationship" with the USA as President Obama said. Countries and Societies should relate with each other on the basis of mutual respect and independence in decision making…
- I thank everybody."
- Link. http://www.bellanaija.com/2014/02/24/uganda-president-replies-barack-obama-on-his-reaction-to-the-anti-gay-law/

UGANDA'S ANTI-GAY BILL.

- The law punishes first-time offenders with 14 years in jail. It also sets life imprisonment as the penalty for acts of "aggravated homosexuality." The bill originally proposed the death penalty for some homosexual acts, but that was later removed amid international criticism.
- The law also makes it illegal to not report gay people and criminalizes the public promotion of homosexuality — including discussions by rights groups.

PRESIDENTS KENYATTA & OBAMA ON GAY ISSUE IN 2015
HTTP://EDITION.CNN.COM/2015/07/25/POLITICS/OBAMA-KENYA-KENYATTA/

PRESIDENT OBAMA'S MESSAGE ON GAY TO KENYANS

- "When you start treating people differently not because of any harm they are doing to anybody, but because they are different, that's the path whereby freedoms begin to erode," Obama said at a joint press conference with the Kenyan leader in Nairobi. "And bad things happen."

- But Obama equated legalized discrimination of gays to legalized racism in America.
- "And when a government gets in a habit of people treating people differently, those habits can spread," Obama continued. "As an African-American, I am painfully aware of what happens when people are treated differently under the law."

PRESIDENT KENYATTA'S REPLY

- Kenyatta, however, said that while the U.S. and Kenya share many common values and goals, gay rights is not one of them.
- "The fact of the matter is Kenya and the U.S. share so many values: common love for democracy, entrepreneurship, value for families -- these are some things that we share," Kenyatta said. "But there are some things that we must admit we don't share. Our culture, our societies don't accept."
- "It is very difficult for us to be able to impose on people that which they themselves do not accept," Kenyatta continued. "This is why I repeatedly say for Kenyans today the (gay rights issue) is generally a non-issue. We want to focus on other areas."

ARGUMENTS BY KENYA'S GAY RIGHT GROUPS.

- Article 162 (1) of the Penal code for instance states: "Any person who has carnal knowledge of any person against the order of nature is guilty of a felony and is liable to imprisonment for fourteen years." However, this violation is so difficult to prove without breaking other laws that no case has ever been successfully prosecuted in Kenya.
- "The law says you can't have sex with another man, which makes society see LGBTI persons as criminals. But their sexual orientation itself is not illegal," said Mr. Oluoch.
- But groups supporting the LGBTI community have steeped efforts to not only to revoke the law but also change attitude towards the gay community. The case for decriminalization is bolstered by the Constitution, which has provisions that the gay community says protects them. They include Article 27 (4) of the bill of Rights that states:
- "The State shall not discriminate directly or indirectly against any person on any ground." Though any law that contravenes the Constitution is illegal, a case needs to be brought court for the law to be struck out. LGBTI groups are currently working on such a case. As

some groups work on the law, others have embarked on a campaign to change people's perception.

- "We need to change public opinion so that by the time we change the laws, there is no backlash," Mr. Jackson Otieno of the Gay and Lesbian Coalition of Kenya explains. The coalition has enlisted the help of police officers and religious leaders to gain acceptance. Reverend Michael Kimindu is one of them. Formerly an Anglican priest and now the President of the Other Sheep Africa, he travels throughout.

- **Source:http://gma.yahoo.com/blogs/abc-blogs/president-obama-affirms-his-support-for-same-sex-marriage.html . Downloaded on 10/05/2012**

- *By* ***Rick Klein ABC News Blogs***

THE KENYAN CONSTITUTION ON MARRIAGE.

- Section 45 of the Kenyan Law reads;

"(1) The family is the natural and fundamental unit of society and the necessary basis of social order, and shall enjoy the recognition and protection of the state.

(2) Every adult has the right to marry a person of the opposite sex, based on the free consent of the parties".

UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS (UDHR) ARTICLE 16 ON MARRIAGE

- HUMAN RIGHTS VIEW ON MARRIAGE AND RELATIONSHIPS SUCH AS: HOMOSEXUALS, LESBIANISM, TRANSGENDER ETC**.**

- "1. Men and women of full age, without any limitations due to race, nationality or religion, have the right to marry and to found a family. They are entitled to equal rights as to marriage, during marriage and at its dissolution.

2. Marriage shall be entered into only with the free and full consent of the intending spouses.

PRO-HOMOSEXUAL POINTS OF VIEWS

- God created homosexuality & Lesbianism and loves them like everyone.

- When people form loving commitment with whomever they love

- Anybody who can form a lasting, loving bond with another being deserves society's respect and support.
- It is a matter of personal preference and not a moral issue.
- It is "unkind, and cruel to attack a person for being gay or lesbian."
- Denial of same sex gender is a violation of individual human rights
- Marriage should be for any two who say "I do."
- Gay relationship can be as loving as the other relationship
- A prejudice against individuals.
- Right to privacy protects homosexuals
- There should be no sexual constraints among consenting adults
- Moral have changed since the ancient times.
- There are homosexuals in the animal kingdom
- "It is in our genes."
- Homosexuals have civil rights too.
- "They are against Lesbians because of Homophobia and hate"
- The Bible doesn't speak against the homosexuality or lesbianism.

H. Alan Scott advocate for " Full Disclosure"
http://community.sparknotes.com/2016/06/15/this-is-how-we-fight-anti-lgbtq-hatred

HATE IS THE REASON FOR NEGATIVITY TOWARDS LGBTQ ACCORDING TO H. ALAN SCOTT

- *Full Disclosure*: I'm writing this with ulterior motives. I know that you, dear reader, are probably younger than me. By reading this, you are reading the work of an out gay writer who wants to see every young gay person be able to grow up, live their lives openly, go to gay bars safely, and yes, maybe even write for SparkLife. So if you're gay, share your stories below. If you're straight, share your thoughts about what you can do to stop hate. Get it out in the open, because that's the first step to ending hate.

- **http://community.sparknotes.com/2016/06/15/this-is-how-we-fight-anti-lgbtq-hatred**

BIBLE REFERENCES WARNING AND CONDEMNING SAME GENDER SEXUAL RELATIONSHIPS.

- Gen. 1:27 – God created male and female.
- Gen. 6:29 – God instructed Noah to preserve.

- Gen. 19 - God punished Sodom and Gomorrah because of homosexualism
- Lev. 18:22,24 God calls homosexuality detestable and defilement.
- Lev. 20: 13 God's commandment requires any person found practicing same gender sexual relationship to be put to death.
- Deut 23:17 God forbid any priest not to receive offering from a temple homosexual or Lesbian prostitute. God detests them.
- Judges 19:22-24 The Bible calls the men who demanded to have sex the male visitor, "wicked men".
- 1 Kings 15:12 King Asa expelled male Shrine prostitute who King Rehoboam introduced from the Land of Judah
- 1 Kings 22:46 King Jehosphat cleared male Shrine prostitute who remained after his father King Asa expelled them.
- Matt. 19:1-8 Christ re-affirm God's intention for marriage as between male and female "…a man shall leave his father and be united to his wife…"
- Rom 1:18-32 "The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness…" homosexual and Lesbian sexual acts are referred to in Rom 1:26-27 as: "inflamed with lust", "shameful lusts", "indecent acts", "exchange natural for unnatural"
- I Cor. 6:9-11; Eph 5:3-7 and Rev. 21:27. The Bible categorize same gender offenders among other sins such as: prostitution, greed, slanders, swindlers etc as offenses which blocks those who practicing from entering into the Kingdom of God.
- Jude 1:4,7,19. The Scriptures says, "…Sodom and Gomorrah…gave themselves up to sexual immorality and perversion." It is a perverse sexual immorality

I. Conscience/Reason- Are human beings born with inbuilt capacity to differentiate good and bad; right and wrong; fair and unfair? There is a theory which claims that mankind is born with clean slate (i.e. pure mind "tabula rasa").

Critique:

Yes it is true mankind was created with a perfect mind (Gen. 1:26-27 and Eccl. 7:29); but because of Adam's sin all humanity is born with a minds tilted to rebellion against God and anything that is good (Rom 3:23;5:12).

*Human desires, intentions and thoughts are "e*vil from his birth, they go astray from birth, speaking lies" (Psalm 58:3; Mark 7:21-23; Matt. 15:19)- "…out of the heart of man, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, coveting, wickedness, deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride, foolishness.

The book of Jeremiah 17:9 states that "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick…?" Therefore we can not depend on conscience alone.

- Parents often cherishes and nurture good morals in their children. Parental guidance is "…a lamp… a light …are the way to life…" (Prov. 6:23), it does provide sense of right and wrong, good and bad, fair and unfair to some level.

Critique:

- However, the parental guidance is useful to some degree because we find evil experienced in society are committed in homes. We must remember that parents are human beings whose desires, intentions and thoughts are prone to sin because of sin in their lives. Thus, morality is not independent on parental nurture but dependent on it to some degree.

✓ The universe and our general surrounding reveal (Rom 1:28)

✓ *Critique:* But these environments are shaped by society and individuals who experience the same limitations as stated above. In society there are good people who are not religious yet they are morally upright as per the constitutional (legal), society or family standards.

➢ **Davis, John Jefferson.(2015). *Evangelical ethics: Issues facing the Church today*. (Pages 121-136)**

OTHER MORAL TOPICS ON SEXUAL ISSUES.

Student is required to study the following:

- ❑ **Prostitution and sex trafficking**
- ❑ **Incest**
- ❑ **Rape**

- **Pornography** – Read article on The Ethics of Pornography and its impact on the Individual, published on International Basic Studies in the Humanities 3.1.2; Spring Semester, 2011

- Explain Anti-Pornographic and Pro-pornographic theories (Pages 26-31); Motivational Factors for watching Pornography (Pages 48-50) and Pornography's effects and consequences on men and women (50-55)

- Develop a Biblical perspective on Pornography out of the following Bible verses: Exodus 20:14; Job 31:1; Ps 119:9-10, 37; Mat 5:27-28; 1 Cor. 6:9,13, 18-20; I Cor 10:13; Gal 5:19-21; Eph 5:3, 11-12; Phil 4:8; Col 3:5; 2 Tim 2:22: Heb 13:4; James 5:11-12; 1 Pet 2:11; and 1 John 2:16.

- Propose steps a Christian can take to assist Kenyan from dangers of Pornographic materials.

- Evaluate the four topics listed above from: African Ethics, African Cultural values, Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Kenyan Constitution and Biblical perspective(Christian ethics).

ABORTION

AFRICAN VIEW OF ABORTION

Abortion was rare in Africa for the following reason;

- Girls were married off when they were young .
- Morals were very high,
- no sex before marriage was allowed anyone who engages will be ashamed through cultural rituals.
- When illegal conception took place, the responsible persons were punished and or the girl was forced to abort, for it was a bad omen to be pregnant outside marriage.

ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS ON ABORTION.

Falls under TWO distinct groups namely:

A. Pro-life – lay emphasis on the fetus

B. Pro-choice– Put emphasis on the mother

- Is the Fetus a Person with Rights? Some ethical consideration emphasis on the rights of the fetus. If the fetus is a person, then murder is involve (Pro-life)

- Those whose decisions are purely based on the Law (Legal status- as stated in the Constitution) (Pro-life position)

KENYAN CONSTITUTION ON ABORTION. (Pro-life)

- Kenyan Law
- Right to Life
- *"(1) Every person has the right to life.*
- *(2) The life of a person begins at conception.*
- *(3) A person shall not be deprived of life intentionally, except to the extent authorized by this Constitution or other written law.*
- *(4) Abortion is not permitted unless, in the opinion of a trained health professional, there is a need for emergency treatment, or the life or health of the mother is in danger, or if permitted by any other written law."*
- **While others considers the interest of the mother instead of the fetus;** emphasis on the mother's personal choice, rights to manage own body as fundamental to the conception of any ethical, democratic, and free society. Can anyone force a woman to carry a pregnancy to a complete term? (Pro-choice)

FURTHER ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT OF THOSE WHO PUT EMPHASIS ON THE MOTHER.(PRO-CHOICE)

- Self-consciousness: Fetus is sub-human, it has no self-consciousness in the womb.
- Physical dependence: It is an extension of the mother, mother has right over her body
- Safety of the mother: Illegal abortion are causing thousands of death. Legalizing it save for mothers from unnecessary death
- Abuse and neglect: Unwanted children are products of unwanted pregnancies.
- Deformities: children who would otherwise live with deformities will be sorted through abortion
- Privacy: A mother has rights over her body. Right to take pregnancies to maturity or terminate.
- Rape: A woman has right to reject a forceful pregnancy.

CRITIQUE THE ABOVE POSITION.

General arguments against those who put emphasis on the mother in disregard to the baby.

- Consciousness do not make one human. Those in coma or sleeping are unconscious and yet still human
- Fetus is not extension of the mother. It is a growing human
- Legalizing abortion do not safe lives but taking lives
- Since fetus are living beings, then deformities does not make them less of human, same way height, colour do not..
- Privacy: Since fetus are human, then pregnant mothers have no right to disturb privacy of fetus
- Rape: one crime do give license the mother to take away life of a fetus

BIBLICAL POSITION ON CONSIDERING A FETUS A FULLY HUMAN AT CONCEPTION.

A fetus is Fully human [Biblical support] : This view condemns abortion on the following grounds.

- Unborn babies are called “children,” the same word used of infants and young children (Luke 1:41, 44; 2:12, 16; Exod. 21:22)
- The unborn are created by God (Ps 139:13) just as God created adults.
- The life of unborn is protected by the same punishment for injury or death (Exod. 21: 22) as that of an adult (Gen. 9:6)
- The image of God includes “male and female” (Gen 1:27), but it is scientifically proven that the gender is determined at conception.
- Unborn children possess personal characteristics such as sin (Ps 51:5) and joy that are distinctive of humans.
- Personal pronouns are used to describe unborn children (Jer 1:5; Matt 1:20-21) just as any other human
- The unborn are said to be known intimately and personally by God as he would know any other person (Ps. 139:15-16; Jer. 1:5)
- The unborn are even called by God before birth (Gen. 25:22-23; Judg 13:2-7; Isa 49:1,5; Gal. 1:15)

MARRIAGE AND DIVORCE

- What is happening to marriages in Africa today?

- A man offers to give away his wife to clear a Sh. 900 debt in Kakamega
- Written by Joseph Amunya- 27th, February 2014.
- Patrick Andabwa (22yrs) with his wife Jones Kevogo (43yrs.)[27th, Feb 2014)

- Is marriage stable in Africa?
- **Kakamega County:** A man from Lwanda village, Moi's Bridge sub location, Likuyani Sub County has astounded villagers after he declined to clear a debt of Sh. 900 and instead offered his wife.
- According to Patrick Andabwa, he assisted the man bake bricks but he has declined to pay back but offered him his wife instead.
- Is marriage stable in Africa?
- **Kakamega County:** A man from Lwanda village, Moi's Bridge sub location, Likuyani Sub County has astounded villagers after he declined to clear a debt of Sh. 900 and instead offered his wife.

- According to Patrick Andabwa, he assisted the man bake bricks but he has declined to pay back but offered him his wife instead.
- "Though I am single, have decided to take in the woman and have no apologies to make", said the 22 year old man.
- Jones (43) and mother of five said she had decided to quit after suffering embarrassment caused by the husband for the last 20 years.
- "I am optimistic my new marriage will work beside our age differences", she said pointing out that her previous marriage had been abusive.
- Link: http:// westfm.co.ke/index-page-news-bid-10796.htm#ixzz2v14cbqih

THE KENYAN CONSTITUTION ON MARRIAGE.

- Section 45 of the Kenyan Law reads;

“(1) The family is the natural and fundamental unit of society and the necessary basis of social order, and shall enjoy the recognition and protection of the state.

(2) Every adult has the right to marry a person of the opposite sex, based on the free consent of the parties”.

Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) Article 16 on Marriage

- Human rights view
- “1. Men and women of full age, without any limitations due to race, nationality or religion, have the right to marry and to found a family. They are entitled to equal rights as to marriage, during marriage and at its dissolution.

- 2. Marriage shall be entered into only with the free and full consent of the intending spouses.
- 3. The family is the natural and fundamental group unit of society and is entitled to protections by society and the State

TRADITIONAL AFRICAN VIEW ON DIVORCE

- In African cultures marriage without children is not consider as valid, since children is the main basic reason for marriage in African cultures. Danfulani Kore in his study of 34 ethnic communities in

Africa underscores childlessness as " the greatest single factor that causes a quick divorce…" It doesn't matter how great the wife is, at the event that she is barren, and then the husband has two options; divorce or marry another wife.

- In modern Africa, divorce may be based on personal reasons, such as: unfaithfulness, mistreatment, denial of individual rights within marriage, and many other reasons.

CHRISTIAN PERSPECTIVE.

- The Christian ethical point of view is derived from God's word and is based on God's character as discussed earlier. Therefore the Biblical view on marriage must be based on the Biblical perspective

What does the Bible say about marriage?

1. God's original plan for marriage is intended for Male and female (Gen 2:24). He (God) instituted marriage when He created male and female and commanded them "to be fruitful and increase in number" (Gen 1:27-27). It is a union between a male and female.

2. Marriage involves sexual union. Gen 1:24 clearly indicates that the two, that male and female shall be one flesh. St. Paul confirms the same thought in 1 Cor. 7:2-4) "…But since there is so much immorality, each man should have his own wife, and each women her own husband. The husband should fulfill his marital duty to his wife, and likewise the wife to her husband…" Sexual union between a married male/female and male/female whether married on not while married is called adultery (Exod. 20:14; Matt. 19:9) and sexual union before marriages is referred to as fornication (Acts 15:20; 1 Cor. 6:18)

3. Marriage involves a covenant between two people (male and female) before God. Marriage is the only institution which God ordained at creation, "therefore , what God has joined together, let man not separate" (Matt. 19:6), "The Lord has been a witness between you and the wife of your youth, against whom you have dealt treacherously, though she is your companion and your wife by covenant." (Mal. 2:14)

Marriage is intended to be a lifelong commitment. "What God has joined together, let man not separate" (Matt. 19:6). It is only death that nullifies a marriage. "By law a married woman is bound to her husband as long as he is alive, but if her husband dies, she is released from the law of marriage" (Rom. 7:2) Marriage doesn't extend to eternal life. "at the resurrection people will neither marry nor be given in marriage; they will be like angels in heaven." (Matt 22:30)

5. Monogamy is God's idea of marriage (Gen 2:24) " a man" (singular) leave his father and mother and be united with his wife(singular) and the two shall become one flesh. But there are many examples of polygamous marriages in the Bible. The fact that there are examples of polygamous marriages doesn't make polygamy right. It only stands as a testimony against the desire of human beings and not God's ideal. What Jesus said of divorce is true also of polygamy; it was "permitted …because your hearts were hard. But it was not this way from the beginning:" (Matt. 19:8)

CHRISTIAN VIEWS ON DIVORCE.

- Christians do not hold one view on divorce. Some are totally against divorce while others supports it.

➢ **Anti-divorce views:**

1) Divorce is not God's ideal. God hates divorce (Mal. 2:16). Christ confirmed that God permitted divorce but never intended (Matt. 19:8). "What god has joined together let man not separate." (Matt19:6)

2) Divorce creates problems. Instead of solving marital problems, divorce creates more problems. There are always consequences which affect, children and spouse. Divorce leaves permanent scars in the hearts of the affected. Divorce is undesirable, psychologically traumatic and socially disruptive.

3) Jesus said Moses permitted you because of hardness of your hearts. (Matt 19:8). The hardness is a problem of human heart especially after the fall of Humanity.

4) Violates God's intentions (Gen 1:24)

5) 5. Marriages for a life time commitment

6) 6. Divorce breaks vows made before God (Mal 2:14)

7) 7. Jesus condemned all divorce (Mark 10:1-9)

8) 8. The Apostle Paul condemned divorce (1 Cor. 7:10-11)

CHRISTIAN PRO-DIVORCE VIEWS.

Some Christians consider divorce as permitted in Scriptures.

1. There are many grounds for divorce. Paul endorsed divorce when he said, " if the unbeliever leaves, let him do so" (1 Cor. 7:15).

2. Even though divorce was not God's intentions, He recognizes human weakness and therefore allows it (Deuteronomy 24:1-4)

3. Even God divorced Israel when they become unfaithful by worship other gods. “Where is your mother’s certificate of divorce with which I sent her away?” (Isa. 50:1)

4. Marriage is a mutual vow. It is conditional vow, but the Unconditional vows are the only which are not suppose to be broken, but marriage is not unconditional vow, but mutual vow means it can be broken.

5. The law of Moses allows divorce provided a certificate of divorce is granted. Jesus referred to hardness of heart as one reason for divorce (Matt 19:8).

MARRIAGE IN AFRICA

Task.

- Evaluate Marriages in Africa. Is there an shift in the foundation of marriage? What are forces behind the change in focus? What are the changes?

EUTHANASIA

- Definition.

a) Active Euthanasia –Someone deliberate performing an act that leads to a person’s death for example give someone an overdose of medicine, shooting them, or pulling off life support

b) Passive Euthanasia – Someone deliberately doing nothing(eg does not give medical treatment and allow the patient to die naturally). For example, a family who have been loosing children due to treatable disease. The burial of the fourth child on 18th July 2018 in Nakuru cemetery was their fourth child who died because their his parents’ faith do not allow them to go to hospital. They believe in prayer alone. The parents committed passive euthanasia.

c) Direct Euthanasia –the person who wants to die takes action that will lead to his or her death eg. Swallowing poison, shooting him/herself.

EUTHANASIA IN AFRICAN CULTURE

- In some parts of Africa (Nigeria) older persons normally instruct their children that they cannot bear the thought of foreign hands touching them on the last days on earth. As a result they refuse to go hospital. They prefer die at home. Also deformed or twin babies were killed or abandoned in the name of bad omen or regarded as evil spirit. All these are some form of Euthanasia. Traditional societies also resort to active euthanasia to end the suffering of elderly people who were very

sick and had not hope of healing. They might be drowned, abandoned or poisoned.

Arguments in support of Euthanasia

- **Quality of life:** Situational ethics calls for an end of life for those who are suffering as a means of focusing on quality of life. It is better to stop suffering rather than maintain it.
- **Freedom of choice:** Individuals ought to be able to exercise their freedom of choice on what kind of death they prefer.
- **Economic factor:** The pro-euthanasia, argue that it is not worth it to use millions of Shillings to treat a terminal ill patient who is going to live for some months or few years. It relieves the family and society of financial burden.
- **It is an act of Mercy to the sufferer and the suffering family:** Mercy dictates that we eliminate pain in the life of the sufferer in the most effective and permanent way.
- **It is a humane thing to do:** Professor Peter Singer insists that " the life of a fetus is of no greater value than the life of a nonhuman animal at a similar level o rationality…"

Arguments against Pro-Euthanasia

- **No one has any moral authority to kill another**. No one has the Moral Right to Kill another person those in support assumes that there is a moral right to intentionally kill an innocent human.
- **The Constitution Gives No Right to Kill:** The Kenyan constitution explicitly states in Article 26 that "Every person has the right to life." Therefore no one should determine that right for someone else.
- **It is not Merciful to kill a sufferer.** : Killing a terminal ill person is not mercy or good act, but murder. (Exod. 20:13)
- **The End does Not Justify the Means:** Life has meaning and the end does not justify the means.

BIBLICAL VIEW ON EUTHANASIA

- **Sanctity of life**
- Some have argued that the Bible has a number of individuals who took their lives. For example Abimelech (Judg 9:54) , Samson (Judg. 16:29-30) and Saul (1 Sam 31:4) took their lives. But these individuals consider it a disgrace to die in the hands their enemies they prefer suicide.

- **Euthanasia is a form of suicide.**
- The Bible considers suicide as self-murder, which is against the commandments, “you shall not murder. Life is a gift from God and therefore it should not be judged only in terms of its usefulness, happiness or productivity. Life is not important because of what it produces but because it exists. Suffering is to be taken as part of consequences of the fall of humanity

- **The Bible speaks against Euthanasia**
- The Ten Commandments along with other laws clearly condemn. “You shall not kill”.
- **It is unmerciful to relieve pain Relieve through death.**
- Even though strong drink is condemn by Scripture the use of strong drinks, it recommends to be given to those who are suffering so as to relieve them of their pain (Prov. 20:1; Isa 5:11). It is therefore imperative to relief pain through medication.
- **Guidelines for decisions.**
- There are times when death is prolonged instead of being allowed to take place that is when life support machines are used to prolong death instead of life. One should remember that God is sovereign (Eccl. 3:2; Heb 9:27) God has appointed that all must die (Gen 2:16-17; Rom 5:12). There are natural limits to life (Ps 90:10) when that happens machines should not be used to prolong death. If the disease is irreversible, and all other means to save his/her life haven’t worked then one must be allowed to die naturally. Who then makes the moral decision when it is evident that the sick is dying of terminal disease? A collective decision from family members, doctors, spiritual, legal are required after consulting God in prayer when He (God) has given clear indication that He is taking the life of the sick.

Suicide in Switzerland.

- “Assisted suicide has been legal in Switzerland for decades, and recent opinion polls show it continues to enjoy wide support among the Swiss, many of whom believed an individual has the right to decide when and how to die. “When we talk about human rights,” says Zurich resident Christian Bretscher, “I think they include the right to decide about death as well.” For full text refer to May

15,2011Standard On Sunday, NEWS FEATURE Euthanasia Services Page 3.

- "Laws: Country seeks to pass legislation barring foreigners from Accessing assisted death services."
- **Explain the legal status of Euthanasia in Switzerland and other European countries.**
- **Explain the legal status of Euthanasia in Kenya**
- **What would be the biblical position a Swiss Christian is expected to stand on and why?**

IN-VITRO FERTILISATION

- In vitro fertilization (**IVF** also referred to as **A**ssisted Reproductive Techniques (**ART**) is a complex procedure which eggs (ova) from a woman's ovary are removed. They are fertilized with sperm in a laboratory procedure, and then the fertilized egg (embryo) is returned to the woman's uterus. The purpose is to treat fertility or genetic problems and assist with the conception of a child. Jun 16, 2016

www.mayoclinic.org/test.../in-vitro-fertilization/.../ovc-20206

SURROGACY

- **What is surrogacy?**
- Surrogacy is a form of assisted reproductive technology(ART) where a woman (the surrogate) offers to carry a baby through pregnancy on behalf of another person or couple and then return the baby to the intended parent(s) once it is born.
- In surrogacy, an embryo is created using an egg and sperm produced by the intending parent(s) (or donors), and is transferred into the surrogate's uterus. The surrogate has no genetic link to the child. Her eggs cannot be used to conceive the child.

Source: http://www.ivf.com.au/fertility-treatment/donor-program/surrogacy

TRACEY THOMPSON (LEFT), GAVE BIRTH TO HER GRANDDAUGHTER - JAN. 6, 2016.

Surrogacy and IVF

- Kelley and her husband Aaron tried for years to have a baby on their own, but repeated infertility treatments were unsuccessful. They experienced three heartbreaking miscarriages.
- Kelley said not having kids just wasn't an option for them.
- They had four remaining embryos from their final round of in vitro fertilization when her mom offered another option: to act as a surrogate and give birth to her own grandchild.
- On Jan. 6, 2016, the McKissacks welcomed a 6-pound, 7-ounce newborn. They picked the name Kelcey, after both Kelley and Tracey.
- By Omar Villafranca CBS News January 8, 2016, 7:05 PM

http://www.cbsnews.com/news/texas-grandmother-surrogate-gives-birth-to-her-own-granddaugther/

- The British woman, known only as Mrs. M., says she wants to honor the wish of her late daughter, who died in 2011 of bowel cancer at age 28, but who had her eggs frozen before her death, according to the New York Times. (June 30,2016), Mrs. M. won an appeal in court for the right to take her daughter's frozen eggs to a clinic in New York, where she plans to have embryos created with donor sperm. The embryos could then be implanted so that Mrs. M. could carry her grandchild.

- Source: Link: https://uk.news.yahoo.com/60-old-woman-wants-pregnant-risks-211834856.html

ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS ON IN-VITRO FERTILIZATION.

- Ethical arising from children whose conception was done through In-Vitro Fertilization.
- This psychologist wrestled with one of the most difficult dilemma that has recently emerged: whether to tell children born through IVF, using a third party's egg or sperm, that they were created in this way.
- A couple hired two women: one to donate eggs, and another to carry the embryo.
- Parents feel that their child would love them less if he or she finds out that their conception was a process that involved two or three other persons beside biological parents they are living with. What will happen if these children learned of this information late in life? Will they feel betrayed and accuse these parents of having withheld vital information?
- The whole process include: Artificial Insemination (AI), vitro-fertilization (IVF), embryo transfer and embryo freezing.
- Will it affect their self-image? Research confirms that children who learned of their background early in life will be positive. But if they come to know late in life, they will have low self-image, others will start a journey to find out where their biological parents are. Once children know that they have a third, biological parent, they will probably want to know who it is, and often want to communicate with or meet this donor.
- It is also known that part of the consequence is medical diseases associate with this technology.
- Compensation for sperm or egg donation is another ethical issue. U.S. allows compensation to women for donating eggs. Where will be the border between selling eggs or sperms and helping the needy? Will the claim of parental based on donation or compensation?
- Is the womb in rent???
- What do you do with a number of embryos fertilized to increase the likelihood of pregnancy? Usually those that are not needed usually are frozen or destroyed. Science supports the view that human life begins at conception. Kenyan constitution recognizes that life begins at conception. The Bible teaches us that life begins at conception. Is it ethically right or wrong to destroy embryo?

- What of health, physical and psychological threat to the mother as a result of children through IVF such as multiple pregnancies which presents a threat to the physical and mental health of the mother.
- Also medical costs of IVF as well as the costs of medical care for their offspring
- There are also multiple threats to the health of children associated to conception through IVF such as birth weight, multiple births, disorders etc.
- In older women(surrogate), a big concern is whether their heart and blood vessels can handle the extra blood volume that flows through a woman's body during pregnancy. Pregnancy at 50s is a risk.

EMBRYO ADOPTION/DONATION

- **Embryo adoption? What is it?**

✓ Read Source: https:www.nightlight.org/snowflakes-embryo-donation-adoption/

Source: https://www.embryodonation.org/

- **Ethical concerns surrounding embryo donation**

Source: https://creatingafamily.org/adoption-category/ethics-embryo-adoption-embryo-donation

A THREE-PARENT BABY

- **Three-Parent IVF: Gene Replacement for the Prevention of Inherited Mitochondrial Diseases**

Source: https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/ articles/PMC4005382/

DR JOHN ZHANG USED DNA FROM THREE-PARENT BABY.

- The baby was born on 6 April after his Jordanian parents travelled to Mexico where they were cared for by US fertility specialists.
- While many experts welcomed news of the birth, some raised concerns that the doctors had left the US to perform the procedure beyond the reach of any regulatory framework and without publishing details of the treatment.
- Speaking to the New Scientist, Zhang said he went to Mexico where “there are no rules” and insisted that doing so was right. “To save lives is the ethical thing to do,” he said.
- The mitochondrial transfer technique is aimed at those with a high risk of passing on debilitating diseases. Photograph: Ben Birchall/PA
- Ten years after the couple married, the wife became pregnant but she lost the baby in the first of four miscarriages. The couple had a baby girl in 2005 whodied at the age of six, and later, a second child who lived for only eight months. Tests on the wife showed that while she was healthy, about one-quarter of her mitochondria carried the genes for Leigh syndrome.
- When the couple approached Zhang for help, he decided to try the mitochondrial transfer procedure. He took the nucleus from one of the woman’s eggs and inserted it into a healthy donor’s egg that had had its own nucleus removed. He then fertilised the egg with the husband’s sperm.

Ethical issues

British Medical Bulletin: Oxford Journals Medicine & Health British Medical Bulletin Volume 115, Issue 1 Pp. 173-183. Social and ethical issues in mitochondrial donation

- ✓ http://bmb.oxfordjournals.org/content/115/1/173.full

https://www.theguardian.com/science/2015/feb/02/three-parent-babies-explained

- **What objections do people have to the procedure?**
- Mitochondrial transfer passes on genetic changes from one generation to another. That raises ethical concerns because any unexpected problems caused by the procedure could affect people who are not yet born, and so cannot give their consent to have the treatment. Mitochondria are not completely understood, and the DNA they hold might affect people's traits in unknown ways. For that reason, some scientists believe mitochondria should be better understood before the procedures are legalised. The Church of England says it is not opposed in principle, but wants to see more scientific research and debate on the ethics, safety and efficacy before the law is changed.
- **Are there other religious objections?**
- The Catholic church opposes one form of mitochondrial transfer, called pronuclear transfer, because a fertilised egg from the mother is destroyed in the process. Catholic ethicists have also complained that mitochondrial transfer introduces a "rupture" between mother and father and "dilutes parenthood".

The students are encourage to do independent study on the following ethical areas:

- ✓ Sex Selection and disability intervention
- ✓ Artificial Insemination –technological solutions to childlessness (e.g. artificial insemination of the wife using the husband's sperms or artificial insemination of the wife using a donor sperms.

Kunhiyop, Samuel Wanje. (2008), *African Christian Ethics* (Pg 204-214)

PRINCIPLES OF THE JUST WAR

- All non-violent options must be exhausted before the use of force as a last resort.

- A war is regarded as just if it is signed by a constitutional legitimate authority (President).
- A just war can only be fought to redress a wrong suffered. For example, self-defense against an armed attack is always considered to be a just cause. Further, a just war can only be fought with "right" intentions: the only permissible objective of a just war is to redress the injury.
- A war can only be just if it is fought with a reasonable chance of success. Deaths and injury incurred in a hopeless cause are not morally justifiable.
- The ultimate goal of a just war is to re-establish peace. More specifically, the peace established after the war must be preferable to the peace that would have prevailed if the war had not been fought.
- The violence used in the war must be proportional to the injury suffered. States are prohibited from using force not necessary to attain the limited objective of addressing the injury suffered.
- The weapons used in war must discriminate between combatants and non-combatants. Civilians are never permissible targets of war, and every effort must be taken to avoid killing civilians. The deaths of civilians are justified only if they are unavoidable victims of a deliberate attack on a military target.

CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE/STRIKES

❑ Is a Christian justified to actively participate on civil disobediences like strike?

✓ Here are three basic responses:

(1) A view which say it is always right to do so (view is called anarchism)

(2) A second view says, it is never right (view is refer to as radical patriotism)

(3) A third view consider it as sometimes right (biblical submission)

BIBLICAL GUIDELINES FOR A CHRISTIAN RESPONSE TO STRIKES, UNJUST OR REPRESSIVE GOVERNMENT

✓ Obey the authorities (eg governors, presidency etc) - Rom 13:1 – submit to every authority instituted by men (I Pet 2:13, 15), for it is God’s will

- ✓ Intercede for them in prayer –Bible commands Christians to pray for all people, kings and all who are in authority ((1 Tim 2:1-2) Case of Exod 2:23; 3:7)
- ✓ Work on towards changing the oppressive laws- through elections, agitating for change of laws –Gal 6:10 “as we have opportunity let do good….”
- ✓ Disobey the oppressive laws which orders Christians to forsake God. – Daniel did disobey Dan 3 and 6
- ✓ Seek freedom (flee) away from such system- Elijah fled from Jezebel (1Kings 18); Jesus parents fled to Egypt (Mat 2)
- ✓ Patiently endure suffering- Situations at times calls for patience (1 Pet 4:12; Rev 13:10)

DOCTOR’S STRIKE AND HIPPOCRATIC OATH

- "I swear by Apollo the physician, and Aesculapius the surgeon, likewise Hygeia and Panacea, and call all the gods and goddesses to witness, that I will observe and keep this underwritten oath, to the utmost of my power and judgment.… With regard to healing the sick… I will take care that they suffer no hurt or damage.… I will willingly refrain from doing any injury or wrong from falsehood” Began by the Greek Physician, Hippocrates (460-377BC)

REVISED HIPPOCRATIC OATH

- "I swear to fulfill, to the best of my ability and judgment, this covenant: …I will apply, for the benefit of the sick, all measures [that] are required,…I will respect the privacy of my patients, for their problems are not disclosed to me that the world may know. Most especially must I tread with care in matters of life and death. If it is given me to save a life, all thanks. But it may also be within my power to take a life; this awesome responsibility must be faced with great humbleness and awareness of my own frailty. …Above all, I must not play at God. …

BIBLICAL VIEW ON MEDICAL STRIKES

- ❑ Christ is our example: He provided for medical services out of His mercy and compassion to all who came to him (man with leprosy, paralytic, raised the dead, heals the blind and mute Mat 8 & 9; John 9;11 etc
- ❑ Example of a good Samaritan Luke 10:25–37. Being a Samaritan (Gentile) he had the right to withheld his service to the sick, but couldn’t .

- Romans 15:1 ”We who are strong ought to bear with the failings of the weak and not to please ourselves.”
- The doctors, nurses and health care providers have an obligation to bear with the sick.
- “Failure to treat a sick person for the sole purpose of improving one’s own welfare is selfish and against the Hippocratic Oath with its promise to do “no harm or injustice” to patients. (Samuel W Kunhiyop, P. 356)

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